



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OKLAHOMA WOMAN, MINNESOTA MAN SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Oklahoma woman and a Minnesota man were sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Clinton County, Mo.

Jesus Jimenez-Gutierrez, 30, of Minnesota, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole.

Regina Lynn Delacal, 32, of Oklahoma, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to five years of federal probation.

On Jan. 8, 2004, **Delacal**, **Jimenez-Gutierrez**, and **Linda Lorraine Salinas**, 59, of California, all pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute methamphetamine in Clinton County between July 27 and Aug. 3, 2003. **Salinas** was previously sentenced to two years in federal prison without parole.

Delacal and **Salinas** were arrested on Aug. 2, 2003, Graves said, when the van in which they were traveling was stopped for speeding on Interstate 35 by a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper. In a subsequent search of the vehicle, law enforcement officers found 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine and three kilograms of cocaine hidden above the gas tank. **Jimenez-Gutierrez** was arrested after he arrived from Minnesota to retrieve the van, believing it had broken down in Cameron, Mo.

Salinas admitted that she drove the “load vehicle” from California to Arizona, where the drugs were loaded in the secret compartment, then drove to Oklahoma, where she met **Delacal**.

Delacal admitted that she helped drive the “load vehicle” from Oklahoma en route to

Minnesota, knowing that it contained illegal drugs. **Delacal** also admitted that she had made the same trip on another occasion. On a prior trip, after the delivery of drugs in Minnesota, **Delecal** was allowed to keep the “load vehicle” - a motor home.

Jimenez-Gutierrez admitted that he was recruited to go to Cameron to help repair the van so it could finish it's trip to Minnesota, knowing that it had drugs loaded in it.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow